

Washington, D.C.- Last night I voted for a short-term spending measure to avoid a shutdown of the federal government and the furlough of hundreds of thousands of federal workers. It was the third time I have voted to avoid a government shutdown. I have proven repeatedly that I am willing to compromise, but the demands that almost resulted in a shutdown were an embarrassment to our republic. It is reprehensible that House Republicans held pay for our military, for instance, hostage to demands that had nothing to do with the budget, such as gutting environmental protection and making one health care provider, Planned Parenthood, ineligible for women's health care programs.

I will closely examine the full agreement that will come for a vote next week. I remain proud of my vote in December against exploding the deficit by giving deep tax cuts to the richest Americans, and I am not willing to pay for those tax cuts in the budget battles ahead by firing teachers, kicking kids from tough circumstances out of Head Start, denying job training to workers who've lost their jobs, and putting college out of reach for middle-class kids by cutting Pell Grants.

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